The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, covering the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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FREEDOM OF WORKERS IS FIRST ESSENTIAL :

A man can't fall half way down a ladder.

Neither can a man believe that labor is a commodity and reject the consequences of that belief—the injunction judge.

One theory cannot be right and the other wrong.

Until recently the injunction process was confined to its original purpose—protection of property and property rights. It was not used where personal relations were involved.

To bring labor within the scope of the injunction process the slave concept has been revived that employers have a property right in the labor of their employes. The theory also includes the employer's right to the public's patronage that striking employes may take from him.

On this foundation the injunction judge rests his cause.

He who says labor is a commodity—that it can be bought without buying the man—ignores the law of cause and effect when he condemns the injunction judge. That man would be astonished when a sighted match explodes gunpowder.

But the commodity theory goes beyond the labor injunction—it reaches into the roots of our social structure.

This theory operates when labor is referred to as "hands," though labor of any description is impossible without knowledge, generally termed skill.

The "superior" person talks of "brawn" workers. To him the pattern maker or cook, the machinist or motorman, the iron molder or longshoreman, the seaman of metal polisher, the printer or teamster who drives a four-horse hitch through a crowded street—these and their kind only possess muscle; they are but "hands," and a group of them are referred to as "a gang."

The commodity theory operates where the food, the education, the clothing, the amusements of workers are standardized by state edict, through minimum wage boards. The employer is never asked what it costs him to live. His household expenses are not probed by government agents. His aspirations are not listed nor his needs card-indexed.

Neither is the employer prohibited from closing his plant when profits are reduced. The public may be inconvenienced, but he is within his right. If workers idle because their living standards are reduced, "can't-strike" laws jail and fine them.

Another vivid example of the commodity theory in operation is found in the anti-union shop, where workers are denied the right of collective action. This right is accorded other classes of citizens without question.

The commodity theory is supported by capitalists and the injunction judge; it is sanctioned by revolutionists and so-called liberals. Some of these are impelled by profit; the others want to "save" the workers.

None of them want workers to save themselves. All of them preach "democracy" and "liberty," but they do not practice it—when wage earners are involved.

Trade unionism would uproot the commodity theory, root and branch.

Freedom of the workers is the first essential.

Agitate! Educate! Organize!

ALLEN'S SUN SETTING.

Topeka, Kan., Feb. 5.—Governor Allen and his "can't-strike" law have passed the peak of popularity and are now headed toward, the down grade.

At the last session of the legislature the governor was monopolist of all he surveyed, with the press of the nation and moving pictures applauding him. He was the man who "solved the labor problem."

Labor organization began to receive the shock. The workers have seen these freak "statesmen" appear, and disappear, and are proving the rule—no exception to the rule.

He opens up a new year with a legislature of different mold than the previous one and the workers, instead of a solid front, are fighting against the whirl of opposition last year, are now conducting an offensive battle.

In his message to the lawmakers, the governor has run into a veritable storm against his industrial court, which has been most generous to corporations that demanded rate increases. The governor now favors a new commission to handle corporations, and this, he says, will give the industrial court more time to handle the labor cases. He has also added cost from $60,000 to $100,000 a year to taxpayers and some of the legislators are reaching for their tomahawks.

The governor has officially declared that "it would be a disaster to a great state like Kansas to be allowed to drift into disuse." The house of representatives has called on the judges of the industrial court to give an account of their doings, and this may indicate that the governor's dream is over.

MUST CERTIFY DISABILITY.

Washington, Feb. 5.—The bureau of pensions has ruled that an applicant for benefits under the recently enacted federal retirement act must furnish a physician's certificate specifically describing all existing disabilities and the degree to which the applicant is disabled for useful and efficient service. It is recommended that the degree to which retirement from his superior officer shows long service in the capacity of such officer, the applicant is partially or totally disabled for useful and efficient service, should also be taken approved by the secretary of the interior.

RECOGNIZE UNION.

St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 5.—Four manufacturers have signed a union shop agreement with their organized employes which calls for the 44-hour week, no piece work and minimum weekly rates that range from $26 to $35 for cutters and matchers and $34 to $40 for millers. No man shall be discharged on account of union membership, overtime and night hours and overtime shall be paid for at the rate of time and one-half.

GET GOOD WAGE RAISE.

New Haven, Conn. Feb. 5.—Organized heat and frost insulators and asbestos workers have signed a new wage agreement, which raises rates for the trade from 5 cents to 6 a day, formerly paid. Assistants are advanced from 50 cents to 62½ cents an hour and helpers and 63½ cents an hour thereafter.

PRESSMEN MAKE GAINS.

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., Feb. 5.—In the current issue of American Pressman is printed a long list of wage gains by locals affiliated with the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union.

GET EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Somerset, Ky., Feb. 5.—An eight-hour day and a $5 per week wage increase has been secured by local street car men, who have perfected a strong trade union.

STREET CAR MEN UNITE.

La Salle, Ill., Feb. 5.—Street car men at this place have organized and are affiliated with the trade union movement.

"BIG BIZ" IS WARNED.

Philadelphia, Feb. 5.—"Are We Facing Industrial War?" asks the Catholic Standard and Times in a leading editorial on the anti-trade union campaign of employers in this country.

"This drive," says the editor, "is considered by the unions, and that not without very good reason, as a direct blow upon unionism, and as a deliberate attempt to undermine the organized labor movement. It is regarded by these representatives of the challenge and a declaration of war. Naturally, they are not going to submit among the laborers, for they are well aware that most of the advantages they possess they enjoy through the concerted efforts of the unions. The interest of labor is safe only when they pinned their faith to them.

"In this attempt the employers may certainly count upon the acquiesce up ghosts that it will be difficult to lay. It is certain that labor is not in the mood to tolerate coercion and to give up the standing it has achieved.

"Before entering upon their campaign to regain lost positions and to thrust labor back into its former helplessness, big business will do well to ponder the serious possibilities that may arise out of their ill-advised efforts."

WORKERS WILL SHOW 'EM.

Cleveland, Feb. 5.—Building contractors can't understand why employes refuse to accept wage cuts. The newspapers declare that prices are falling, business men and the union wage scales for present stagnation and other machinery to mold public opinion has been used to play the game of low-wage advocates.

But despite these educational forces the workers seem awfully stubborn, and the contractors have announced that labor "leaders" are to blame.

If you would leave "your" men alone, they would accept wage cuts, say the contractors.

"All right," reply the officials. "We'll refer the matter to the membership."

As a result the building trades council is arranging for a referendum.

WOULD ENJOIN UNIONISTS.

Ottawa, Ontario, Feb. 5.—The Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad Employes object to having its charter revoked by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and has asked for an injunction against officials of the congress. The brotherhood is a dual organization and the congress has been attempting for two years to get it to affiliate or merge with the recognized Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, affiliated with the A. F. of L. The dual union has a narrow national idea that employers are encouraging.

ENJOINED FROM TALKING.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Feb. 5.—Striking employes of the Lookout manufacturing corporation must not inform seekers of employment that strikers exist, it was decided according to an injunction by Chancellor Garvin. The order would close the mouths of the strikers, who are also prohibited from "interfering in any manner" with employment.

Printing notice that a strike is on at this plant is also enjoined.

FAVOR ARBITRATION.

St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 5.—An anti-strike law is barely possible at this session of the state legislature, because of sentiments contained in the state industrial commission bill, which is favored by leaders of the legislature. The proposal provides that the commission shall be used in its power to promote the voluntary arbitration, mediation and conciliation of disputes between employers and employes."

LAUNDRY WORKERS GAIN.

Galion, N. Mex., Feb. 5.—Laundry workers have secured wage increases and improved working conditions as a result of trade union effort.

CHURCH MEN UNMASK ALLEGED "OPEN" SHOP

New York, Feb. 5.—The Social Service Bulletin, issued by the Methodist federation for social service, is the latest to bombard the alleged "open" shop. This attack is one of the many being launched against the anti-union movement by church men of all creeds.

"The real issue," says the Social Service Bulletin, "is the method of consolidating employers into, not a question of collective bargaining, as against individual bargaining. The 'personal liberty' and 'freedom of contract' for which the employing group stands, leaves entire control of hiring and firing, management, amount and quality of product, system of pay in the hands of the employer. As individual, even though a 'union man,' is powerless to bargain over these matters.

"That this is the real issue of the campaign is evident in the repeated assurance of employing groups that they will not discriminate against union men as such, but that they will deal with them only as individuals.

"Experience of the steel corporation in maintaining the 'open shop' policy indicates that this policy is not enforced without an army of spies. Espionage system established by this and other corporations breed distrust, suspicion and disintegrate community life.

"In West Virginia at the present time the indictments of coal operators to maintain 'open shop' conditions is leading to a situation which threatens civil war in that area.

"In Alabama, military rule has supplanted civil administration because coal operators are determined to keep the unions out.

"Is the public ready to substitute for this collective bargaining of labor the closed shop of industrial autocracy with its social consequences? Is it willing to have these social results extended?"

FAVOR 44-HOUR WEEK.

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, Feb. 5.—Senator Hesbi, president of the New South Wales board of trade, has ruled in favor of a 44-hour week in the building trades.

"The adoption of a 44-hour working week in the building trade group of industries," he said, "will not necessarily injure the trade of any of the said industries or result in serious public mischief or a sudden increase in the cost of building operations. There will be some addition to the building cost resulting from the steps intended to effect a universal 44-hour week, but some of this will be recouped by the general methods of production and by the creation of a more intimate industrial co-operation between employment and workers.

"The organization of the industry and improvement in plant and methods will make up for most of the difference. The production plus directly from the shorter working week."

The judge recommends the formation of an industrial council, consisting of representatives of the employers and employed.

BLANTON STRIKES SNAG.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Congressman Blanton of Texas accepted an invitation to address members of the federal Employes' union here, but he did not "get away" with his harangue.

He charged that two-thirds of the membership of the A. F. of L. cannot speak English and another one-third evaded military service during the war.

This statement was received with hisses, and Hugh Reid, associate editor of the Federal Employe, called the Texan a liar.

Blanton made his usual tirade, so common to him in congress. He praised the membership of the union while condemning the officials. Then he met with little success in the early stages of his address. As a last grand stand play he said he was notified that if he attended the meeting he would be assassinated.

The speech was voted the best vaudeville ever witnessed by the federal employes.

URGE FREIGHT RATE CUT.

Philadelphia, Feb. 5.—The Pennsylvania railroad and another company is howling about high freight rates. They want 'em reduced. Last spring this business men were up in arms in their demand that the railroads have their rates "reasonable" and "substantial." They would not wait for government control to be tried under the normal conditions. They insisted that the Cummins-Esch control bill be passed. When it was done, the roads guaranteed 6 per cent interest, rates were advanced to make the guarantee certain and now this lumber men object.

It is a speech to the limited on costs one of these business men made at the interesting gathering of the majority of the lumber men in this state do not know the rate of profit they are making.

"In some instances," he said, "they really believed they were making 40 per cent profit and after a look at their books I found they were only making 10 per cent."

TEXTILE STRIKE ENDS.

Rock Hill, S. C., Feb. 5.—At a conference between John Golden, president of the United Textile Workers, and Hamilton Carhartt, jr., the Carhartt cotton mill strike here at this place was adjusted. Union conditions will prevail and all strikers have been reinstated.

President Golden corrects the rumor that the Hamilton-Carhartt firm has been advertised as unfair by the United Textile Workers because of this difference. The trade union officials of the Carhartt workers were confident that a settlement could be reached when Hamilton-Carhartt executives entered into the situation.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Feb. 5.—An agreement between the Typographical union here and the employing printers provides for an increase of $7 weekly and a reduction of 1 hour per week in the hours. The new rates are $55 a week for night work and $52 for day work.

KILL ANTI-STRIKE BILL.

Helena, Mont., Feb. 5.—An attempt to establish the Kansas "anti-strike" law in this state has been defeated in the Montana legislature. The bill would have established in the workers includes compulsory arbitration and anti-picketing.

RAILROAD BOOSTERS CLAIMED TOO MUCH

Philadelphia, Feb. 5.—Propagandists for the railroads have overplayed their hand, writes Richard Spillane, in the Public Ledger. Mr. Spillane is supposed to be an authority on financial affairs. Nothing was said by him and his kind while the railroads' propaganda flooded the newspapers, but now, when the tide turns, Mr. Spillane sagely remarks that "the thing is not working out as the railroads hoped it would be a new deal; the revenue is not what it should be."

The interesting portion of his story, however, refers to the propaganda of railroads in their fight to secure higher rates.

It is remarkably able piece of propaganda and is to be declared:

"The thing was overdone, particularly in Baltimore and Philadelphia. If the propagandists had stuck to simple statement of plain facts they would have done much better, but they made it appear that the railroads had suffered greatly under governmental control, had declined from a condition approximating private ownership to one approaching confiscation, and only by rates that would yield a good profit to the investor could the billions of money necessary to the rehabilitation of the railroads be obtained.

"They got practically all they asked for in passenger and freight charges, but not nearly what they expected. They were delighted, however, when the administration were hailed as wonderful men.

"But the thing has not worked out as they thought it would. It is a new deal; the revenue is not what it should be."

AIDING EX-SERVICE MEN.

Washington, Feb. 5.—The present grave unemployment situation does not discourage the federal government's program of training disabled ex-service men, according to staff officials of the federal board for vocational education. The board reports that 4,000 of the world war vets in training, approximately 20,000 of whom are on the job in factories, shops and the city. The total additional number will be added from time to time, the board announced by Premier Lloyd George and the people of Great Britain and the world were notified that at last an understanding between "capital (capitalism) and labor" was in sight. Lloyd George stated that whatever was agreed upon he would at once give the force of law.

The conference agreed on maximum hours, minimum wages, method of preventing unemployment, or, where unemployment is inadequate maintenance while unemployed or partially employed. A joint industrial parliament was also agreed to. This was intended to settle disputes between employer and employed before they reached the crisis stage.

The government has forgotten, the public has forgotten and unemployment is increasing and the government suggesting that those employed divide with those not employed. A few months ago the government was demanding greater production and thundering on the evils of idleness.

RAILROADS DISAPPOINT.

New York, Feb. 5.—Wall street is disappointed at the financial show of railroads during 1920. The four months of 1920 it was necessary for the roads to make a profit of $467,000,000 to pay the fixed interest as provided by the transportation act. For the whole year the profits amounted to but $291,000,000, or a deficit of $146,000,000.

When the transportation act was passed and rates were advanced the public was assured that the roads would reign hereafter, but the roads appear to be in as much trouble as ever to secure profit on an honorary investment.

The large factor in the railroads' deficit is their practice of "farming" out repair work to concerns in which railroad executives and directors are interested. These managers and owners are now attempting to meet the deficit by cutting wages, lengthening hours and establishing piece work.

OPPOSE PIECE WORK.

New York, Feb. 5.—Officers of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union announce that every resistance at their command by the organization will be thrown into the fight against piece work, which some employers would re-establish. An assessment of $1.50 per member was voted for the campaign.

The garment workers show that sweat shops flourished under the piece work system and that they disappear until the union secured a stated wage, with regular hours and standardized working conditions.

UNIONISM PAYS.

Port Huron, Mich., Feb. 5.—Firemen and oilers in this city have been organized 16 months and during that time they have raised wages 60 cents an hour.

TAX ON LAND VALUES WOULD STOP DODGERS

Baltimore, Feb. 5.—The American economic league makes a point against the New York Times, which says:

"Millionaires know how to pay their taxes in strict accordance with the law, and in such a manner that they do not pay too much in punishment for their wealth, according to tide turns, Mr. Spillane sagely remarks that "the thing is not working out as the railroads hoped it would be a new deal; the revenue is not what it should be."

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Government reports show the most extensive employment situation in the New England textile and shoe industries. 17 of the federal board trainees the next most serious unemployment is in the central states, especially automobile industries.

The federal board's 1920 annual report showed 3,221 men in training in the automobile and related industries, 1,000 in the building and repair, 264 in textiles and only 1,000 in the rubber manufacturing industry.

MORE ANTI-STRIKE PLANS.

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 5.—A bill has been introduced in the state legislature which would restrain any labor union or association of seven or more members to do or to be used. The bill is aimed at labor, but its author declares that it is one that would place a weapon in the hands of any seven men to start an anti-strike or organization to the individuals.

"It is far more dangerous to labor would make it unlawful for unions to "make effective any unlawful agreement," declares that the bill is adroitly drawn and would prevent unions from carrying out "unwarranted industrial warfare" if workers suspend work before giving employers a reasonable time to consider demands. It would also be necessary to define the term "reasonable" and even if the employer were engaged in procuring strikebreakers the strike, could be declared illegal.

UNION SHOP OPTIONAL.

Winnipeg, Canada, Feb. 5.—The union or non-union shop will be optional with Canadian contractors, according to a resolution adopted by these employers at a convention in this city. The convention unanimously showed a woeful lack of information because of their statement that the organization of the open shop in the United States "has resulted in more harmonious working in that industry."

The convention admitted the right of labor to organize, but declared that unions should be incorporated so that contracts would be binding. The contractors failed to state that the reason they incorporate is to escape liability.

DEFENDS STEEL TRUST.

New York, Feb. 5.—Chancellor Day, of Syracuse university, has condemned the steel strike report issued by a commission of the interchurch world movement. The chancellor has been a defender of the anti-union steel corporation and in his latest speech he denounces the church for "attacking a great corporation which has given universal freedom to all its employes."

TAX ON LAND VALUES WOULD STOP DODGERS

Baltimore, Feb. 5.—The American economic league makes a point against the New York Times, which says:

"Millionaires know how to pay their taxes in strict accordance with the law, and in such a manner that they do not pay too much in punishment for their wealth, according to lawful standards. By putting their money in exempt securities provided for the purpose they escape their income intact, but also divert their wealth from more remunerative investments."

To this expose of tax-dodging millionaires, the economic league replies:

"In other words the income tax law fails lightly on millionaires, although supposed to bear heavily on them. These are things surprising about this. All efforts to levy taxes according to ability to pay must strike at this law.

"More millionaires would be reached by taxing land values than national capitalism by these and all taxes on land values. That would reach the unearned income at its source. The millionaire might invest in stocks, bonds or other securities, but these have no value except what is given them by the property which is behind them. In most cases this property is land, and by taxing the value of land these securities based upon it will be taxed. Such a tax cannot be evaded by investing in tax exempt securities like dodgers is clear enough from the opposition to it which they control to single tax measures wherever proposed.

"When it comes to a choice between the income tax and a land value tax, the people and not millionaires who wants his privilege to continue is sure to prefer the former. He knows which one he can evade."

FORGET PROMISES.

London, England, Feb. 5.—The present unemployed problem again reminds trade unionists of the historic conference of employers and employes, held two years ago in this city. In that meeting Lloyd George addressed by Premier Lloyd George and the people of Great Britain and the world were notified that at last an understanding between "capital (capitalism) and labor" was in sight. Lloyd George stated that whatever was agreed upon he would at once give the force of law.

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HIGH TARIFF WOBBLES BEFORE WORLD MARKET

Philadelphia, Feb. 5.—Because his business has visions of world markets it is abandoning the theory that a Chinese wall, in the form of high tariff, must protect this country from foreign competition, according to the Philadelphia North American.

Former high tariff advocates know that if commodities of other nations are barred, those nations will retaliate and the markets of world markets is destroyed. It is even whispered that the steel trust has come to the conclusion that it can compete against the world and that the paupor labor hogwash has lost its force as this labor can be obtained as needed, while the countries that supply the pauper labor can be made a customer of American steel if no barrier is placed against its products.

This city is the home of men who have advocated the highest tariff barriers possible, but the change in their business policies is international capitalism by these and other business men is indicated in a long editorial in the North American, which says, in part:

"American advocate of a modernized tariff they will find some powerful opposition from business combinations whose prosperity was built up under high protection, but which are now interested in extending the home market and whose future is dependent upon the development of foreign trade.

"They will find in the ranks of the manufacturing interests, great banking interests, which in the past contributed heavily to campaigns which put the high tariff issue, but whose horizon has been widened and whose operations abroad have been vastly extended in recent years. Prominent among these are the international banking houses which have sold hundreds of millions of dollars of foreign government loans, redeemable only through the expansion of commercial relationships and the exchange of goods fostered by a lower tariff."

CHECK BANK PROBE.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 5.—Financial interests have blocked a probe of their affairs by the Lockwood committee that has been investigating the so-called building trust in New York city. The committee asked the legislature to extend its authority so it could inquire into "the organization, management and control of business and affairs" of all insurance companies, banks and trust companies.

The resolution was attacked by the banking interests in the state, and as finally passed it provided merely for an investigation of loans on real estate mortgages.

It is claimed that one life insurance company has invested in one building wrecked because of speculation by officials of the trust, and people's money in the sugar market. This is but one of the many things that the committee intends to investigate.

WILL FIGHT WAGE CUTS.

Cleveland, Feb. 5.—Executives of the four railroad brotherhoods say that the proposed wage cuts asked by railroad managers, will be resisted. The brotherhood officials denied that reports of decreases in the cost of living are not borne out by the general conditions and are merely of propaganda; that wages of railroad employes are not high as paid in many other industries.

President Carter of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen declared that "notwithstanding all the big increases granted by the railroad administration or the arbitration boards, the wages of railroad men are lower than because of the great increase in the efficiency of railroad employes there has been a decrease in no increase in wage costs, compared with products."

O. B. U.'S FADE AWAY.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Feb. 5.—The one big union that was launched amid a blare of trumpets nearly two years ago at Calgary has been a disappointment and a terrible blow by the withdrawal of the British Columbia loggers, who are known as the One Big Union.

The one big union has now lost its hold upon the miners of Nanaimo, with small groups scattered throughout several cities in the northwest.

When the o. b. u.'s organized they made a bid for the support of trade unionists who overlooked former over-night attempts to uproot the trade union movement.

COAL MEN WARNED AGAIN.

Boston, Feb. 5.—Coal dealers are again warned by the fuel administrator that unless definite action will be taken against them if they do not reduce prices.

Dealers with the other eye as they assure the official that prices will be rearranged. But the old prices remain and the fuel administrator declares coal consumers benefits from his publicity department. The process keeps the public in a hopeful frame of mind.

THAT "HIGH" FARM WAGE.

Washington, Feb. 5.—The "high" farm wage of $4.36 per day averaged about $16 a week without board last-year, according to a report issued today by the department of agriculture. It is stated that the average rate for labor hired by the month was $2.58 with board and $4.36 without board.

REJECT WAGE CUT.

Newark, N. J., Feb. 5.—Hat Finishers' union No. 14 has unanimously rejected a demand that wage rates be reduced 5 per cent. Employers made several attempts to lower wages but the hatters decline to reduce living standards.

RENEW AGREEMENTS.

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 5.—Organized composition roofers and asbestos workers have renewed their agreements with employers. The latter union will be paid double time for overtime.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

West Palm Beach, Fla., Feb. 5.—The annual convention of the Florida state federation of labor will be held in the city the first Monday in April.

STRIKE LOSSES ARE GUESSES; FIGURES NOT BASED ON FACTS

Washington, Feb. 5.—An approximate cost of strikes can not be estimated, except in isolated instances, says Edson L. Whitney, writing in the Monthly Labor Review, issued by the United States bureau of labor statistics.

The writer discounts claims by those who estimate the cost of strikes down to the last dollar. He says it is impossible to estimate the loss and that figures issued on this basis are "little more than guesses by the compiler, not statistical in character and frequently incorrect in their conclusions."

Despite the machinery established by the bureau of labor statistics and the various states' commissions information of every strike can not be obtained, nor is it possible to say that the information is correct in every particular, especially since statements of employers and employes are frequently greatly at variance, as the following example illustrates this point. On the first day of the strike, says Mr. Whitney, 200,000 men were idled; the next day the number was given as 275,000; two days later as 340,000, and on October 27 as 370,000. On the other hand the strikers claimed that only 40 per cent of the above number responded to the call. Officials of the Inland Steel company, at Indiana Harbor, announced that 2,000 of their employes had refused to go to work, while the union officials claimed the number was 5,000. On October 27, the Indiana Steel company at Gary, Indiana, stated that their mills were operating, while the union officials said that the strikers were standing firm.

The effect of these figures that the steel strike resulted in a loss of 2,500,000 days or a loss of 2,500,000 man-days, according to one's viewpoint. From the standpoint of statistics, he says, the figures mean nothing.

The loss resulting from strikes is largely mythical, according to the writer, who says:

"Most industries are seasonal to a certain extent and when, after a strike, the men return to work, operated and rested as a result of their vacation, they will, in the course of the season, do as much work as they would have done had no strike occurred." Instances in the steel industry are cited to prove this point. It is also stated that a miners' strike does not necessarily reduce the amount of yearly wages received, as "it may divide the slack season into two parts, and in estimating their loss in wages this cannot be overlooked or borne in mind."

In discussing strike losses by employers, Mr. Whitney says "very few will admit this loss explain their method of figuring."

Except in very long-continued strikes, he says, it seems to be limited mainly to the loss in profits, something very difficult to figure, for profits are elusive and may disappear even in the absence of a strike, since they are ascertained dependent upon market conditions at the time of the sale, rather than at the time of manufacture.

"Temporary losses in one establishment are often offset by temporary gains later as where a shop is closed for a time by a strike of its employes and a neighbor shop gets its business during the time, and then the shop loses permanently similarly by a strike at the second shop.

"In only rare instances does the public, the innocent third party, suffer more than a slight loss of convenience mainly.

"Nor is there any loss of time to employes in related industries. Manufacturing establishments do not shut down for a time by a strike of employes and a neighbor shop gets its business during the time, and then the shop loses permanently similarly by a strike at the second shop.

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WAGES ARE NOT HIGH.

Alberta, Canada, Feb. 5.—"Written with the idea of preparing the public mind for a drive against the wages of building trade workers," is the comment of the Alberta Labor News on a plea by the Calgary Daily Herald for wage reductions because the price of lumber has dropped.

"The insinuation that the wages of building trade workers are high has been, extortionate, is false and without any justification whatever," adds the labor paper.

"How can it be said that the wages of building trade workers are unless it can be proven that the standard of living in 1913 or 1914 was low. Is any way unreasonable claim that the wages now received by the building trades of Canada are higher in their buying power than the wages in 1913? And one does not have to be a member of building trades workers should have the standard of living than they had in 1914?"

WON'T PUBLISH NAMES.

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, Feb. 5.—President Brooks of the Employers' Federation refuses to disclose the names of contributors to the fund of £35,000 presented to Federal Premier Hughes. Mr. Brooks was chairman of the committee which had charge of the fund. He says it is intended that the public should know from what sources the money was received.

The gift to Premier Hughes was made just prior to the rejection of a basic wage award, made by a royal commission, after a year's investigation. In October, 1919, the premier announced that the government would accept the award, but now he rejects it. His action, together with the gift and the conditions surrounding it, has created comment among Australian workers.

OPPOSE NON-UNION SHOP.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Feb. 5.—At its convention in this city the Iowa Master Plumbers association rejected the anti-union shop and declared for arbitration and mediation. Employers pledged collective bargaining and ignored the labor injunction. Similar action has been applied when the real intention had nothing to do with the better relations between employer and employe, but rather with the development of "national prejudices."

DUAL UNION IN COURT.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 5.—President Dave Dubinsky of the United International Leather Workers' union calls attention to injunction proceedings in Kansas, announced by a dual union.

The organization is not associated with the trade union movement. It has taken the name of the international union of leather workers and added the words "of America." Dubinsky says that the officials of themselves and one crowd has selected the court to divide the funds, and that the bona fide officials and members of the organization have had their wages reduced.

DIVIDENDS INCREASE.

Fall River, Mass., Feb. 5.—While wages of textile workers are being reduced, dividends to the cloth industry continue to prosper. The American Linen company of this city has announced a quarterly dividend of 2 per cent, the usual rate is 1½ per cent. The Granite Cotton mills corporation also announces a quarterly dividend of 2 per cent.

BETHLEHEM PROSPERS.

New York, Feb. 5.—The Bethlehem Steel corporation has announced for the year 1920, even though it did refuse to sell its products to the government at the price the corporation reports a profit of $14,450,357 for the year against a profit of $15,256,360 for the year 1919.

ANTI-PRIMARY BILL BEATEN.

Indianapolis, Feb. 5.—The state legislature has defeated an attempt to set aside the state primary law and re-establish the ward caucus and convention system.

WILL ARBITRATE WAGES.

San Francisco, Feb. 5.—Building contractors in this city have refused the offer of the union bricklayers and are arbitrating a wage increase of 17 building trade unions.